



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office
P.O. Box 1659
Richmond, VA 23218-1659
Phone (804) 771-2493
<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

WEATHER & CROPS



United States
Department of
Agriculture



Month: March 2007

Number: 3

Released: March 26, 2007

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR MARCH 2007

Virginia experienced drier than normal conditions with average temperatures. Soil moisture was adequate throughout the month. Small grain crops and pastures looked good. Grain producers scouted for aphids and cereal leaf beetles and prepared to side dress wheat and barley. Tobacco transplants in greenhouses progressed well. Maple syrup producers indicated that their season was over for the year with less than average production. Other farm activities this month included fertilizer applications, cattle marketing, repairing equipment, attending meetings and preparing for spring plantings.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
December, 2006	0	10	77	13
January, 2007	0	10	83	7
February, 2007	0	2	69	29
March, 2007	1	13	78	8

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Month	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
December, 2006	0	5	84	11
January, 2007	0	8	87	5
February, 2007	0	6	77	17
March, 2007	1	15	76	8

CROP CONDITION PERCENT

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pastures	1	21	37	39	2
Livestock	1	5	26	60	8
Small Grain and Winter Grazing Crops	2	4	28	57	9

FORAGE PERCENT OBTAINED FROM PASTURES

Crop	This Month	Last Month
Beef Cattle Forage % Obtained from Pastures	18	15
Milk Cow Forage % Obtained from Pastures	7	6
Sheep Forage % Obtained from Pastures	13	15

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by Extension Agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

County Specific Comments-Crop Weather

ACCOMACK COUNTY (James N. Belote):

Potato planting is on time if not early this year due to better weather. Farmers are getting tomato fields ready with plastic, fertilizer, etc for early April plantings. Wheat crop looks fairly good and farmers are optimistic on yields. The mood is unusually good for grain farmers due to higher prices for the crops but growers are concerned about soybean rust and the soaring cost of production, especially fertilizer. Farmers picking up seed for corn planting and still attending meetings.

ESSEX COUNTY (Keith Balderson):

Activities included no-till ripping fields prior to corn planting, applying nitrogen to the wheat crop, and fertilizing and liming corn ground. Although crop prices are good right now, rapidly increasing fertilizer prices, especially for DAP and nitrogen, are major concerns right now.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY (David Moore):

Nice weather this week. Producers are talking a lot about corn planting. We are still due some cold weather though. Tissue sampling, soil sampling and 2nd shot of N on wheat are activities of the week. Land prep for corn planting also continues with fertilizer applications and burndown/pre-emerge herbicides. Producers also are continuing to repair equipment and do other field work in prep for spring planting.

Fertilization of grass and pasture continues, as well as small grains scouting.

PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY (Jamie Stowe):

The rains in the recent weeks have improved the quality of the pasture and hayland significantly, but we're still looking for more. Tobacco farmers are busy working in the greenhouses and we have seen some cold damage due to the fluctuating temperatures.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY (C. Taylor Clarke, Jr.):

Tobacco producers are busy preparing land for the upcoming season. Transplants in greenhouses progressing well and stands in most cases are adequate.

SURRY COUNTY (Glenn Slade):

March weather was drier than normal with average temperatures. Growers are beginning field work with cotton and peanut land being tilled. Corn planting will begin the last week of March.

VIRGINIA BEACH (Cal Schiemann):

Corn growers are busy disking and spraying in preparation for planting. Strawberry growers are frost protecting the crop and preparing for early fungus disease spraying. Vegetable growers are preparing land for planting potatoes, cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower. They should be planting this week. Later planted vegetable crops are growing in greenhouses.



**National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service**

USDA/NASS/Virginia Field Office

P. O. Box 1659

Richmond, VA 23218-1659

Phone (804) 771-2493

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

Address Service Requested